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**Law and Order Committee approves grant from the U.S. Department of Justice for the Navajo Nation Integrated Justice Information Sharing Project**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee approved Legislation No. 0375-13, which seeks to approve a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice for approximately \$78,000. The Justice Assistance Grant program would fund the Navajo Nation Integrated Justice Information Sharing Project for the period of Oct. 2012 through Sept. 2016.

According to Judicial Branch grant administrator Raquel Chee, the NNIJISP allows the Nation's courts and public safety divisions to share information through improving and expanding their case management system through utilization of the JAG program.

"We are hoping to purchase the web application JustWare, which is an Internet site that would enable access to approved case management information by the general public, courts, public safety, and any other entities that utilize the information," said Chee.

LOC vice chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichii, Steamboat) who sponsored the legislation, requested support from committee members in regards to the judicial branch's effort in improving its information sharing capabilities.

"I am asking for the support of the committee to bring technology to the forefront in our justice system, so that we are not falling behind other agencies nationwide," said Delegate Shepherd.

Delegate Shepherd added that the judicial branch applied for the grant prior to the Nation's approval of its indirect cost rate of 16.95 percent for FY2013, however the grant caps indirect costs at 10 percent.

"Because the grant caps their IDC rate at 10 percent, we are also requesting to waive the difference of the IDC rate in the amount of 6.95 percent to meet the grant's requirements," said Delegate Shepherd.

The IDC rate for FY2013 was established by the Navajo Nation at 16.95 percent and has yet to be determined for FY2014. The Nation is entitled to collect IDC recovery costs from the federal government, which applies to federal grants, contracts, and agreements.

Near the conclusion of the meeting, LOC member Council Delegate Duane Tsinigine (Bodaway/Gap, Coppermine, K'ai'biitó, LeChee, Tonalea/Red Lake) expressed his support for the grant and the effect it will have on judicial and public safety personnel.

"I am so glad we are looking for additional funding to help the judicial branch and Navajo Nation Public Safety Division because these tools will help make their jobs much easier, and their work more efficient," said Delegate Tsinigine.

LOC voted 2-0 to approve Legislation No. 0375-13. The legislation now goes to the Budget and Finance Committee, who serves as the final authority on the legislation. The Naabík'íyátí' Committee serves as final authority in waiving the IDC rate for the U.S. DOJ grant.

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